



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office

APPLICATION NUMBER				gton, D.C. 20231	
APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRS	T NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DO	CKET NO.
				EXAMIN	ER
				ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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					11/R
				DATE MAILED:	72
This is a communication from the ex-		cation.			YB ggondrea 8-11-03
	NOTICE O	FALLO	WARII ITY		8-11-03
claims being allowable, PROSECU- eviously mailed), a Notice of Allowablice OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A tiative of the Office or upon petition This communication is responsive The allowed claim(s) is/are	ance and Issue Fee Due or A GRANT OF PATENT RIGH In by the applicant. See 37	other appi ITS. This a	ropriate communic application is subje	cation will be mailed in	due course. THIS
The drawings filed on	are a	acceptable	as formal drawing	gs.	
Acknowledgement is made of a c	laim for foreign priority und	der 35 U.S.	.C. § 119(a)-(d) or ((f).	
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PTOL-37 (Rev. 11/00)

☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
PO. Box 1430
Alexandria Virnina 2211-1450

NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND FEE(S) DUE

026304

7590

08/12/2003

KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585

EXAMINER .				
GOUDREA	U, GEORGE A			
ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS			
1763	438-712000			

DATE MAILED: 08/12/2003

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/751,979	12/29/2000	Atsushi Nishizawa	NECW 18.159	9046

TITLE OF INVENTION: MANUFACTURING METHOD OF SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT INCLUDING SIMULTANEOUS FORMATION OF VIA HOLE REACHING METAL WIRING AND CONCAVE GROOVE IN INTERLAYER FILM AND SEMICONDUCTOR INTEGRATED CIRCUIT MANUFACTURED WITH THE MANUFACTURING METHOD

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE	PUBLICATION FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	NO	\$1300	\$300	\$1600	11/12/2003

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. <u>PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED</u>. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED. SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE REFLECTS A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE APPLIED IN THIS APPLICATION. THE PTOL-85B (OR AN EQUIVALENT) MUST BE RETURNED WITHIN THIS PERIOD EVEN IF NO FEE IS DUE OR THE APPLICATION WILL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.
- B. If the status is changed, pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above and notify the United States Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or
- B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check the box below and enclose the PUBLICATION FEE and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.
 - □ Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27.
- II. PART B FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL should be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Even if the fee(s) have already been paid, Part B Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.
- III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed n r after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility t ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, togethe

h applicable fee(s), t:<u>Mail</u> Mail St p ISSUN **Commissioner for Patents** Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

(703)746-4000 **Fax**

INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 4 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

CURRENT CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS (Note: Legably mark-up with any corrections or use Block I)

026304

7590

08/12/2003

KATTEN MUCHIN ZAVIS ROSENMAN **575 MADISON AVENUE** NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585

Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Box Issue Fee address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)	
(Signature)	_ , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
(Date)	

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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nonprovisional	NO	\$1300	\$300	\$1600	11/12/2003
EXAM	INER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS		
GOUDREAU,	GEORGE A	1763	438-712000		
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☐ Change of correspond Address form PTO/SB/	dence address (or Change of 122) attached.	Correspondence	or agents OR, alternatively, single firm (having as a n	nember a registered	-
☐ "Fee Address" indicate PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 Number is required.	☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a Customer Number is required.		attorney or agent) and the registered patent attorneys or is listed, no name will be prin	r agents. If no name	

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. Inclusion of assignee data is only appropriate when an assignment has been previously submitted to the USPTO or is being submitted under separate cover. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY and STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not b	e printed on the patent)	☐ individual	☐ corporation or other private group entity	government
4a. The following fee(s) are enclosed:	4b. Payment of Fee(s):			
☐ Issue Fee	☐ A check in the amount o	f the fee(s) is en	closed.	
□ Publication Fee	☐ Payment by credit card.	Form PTO-2038	is attached.	
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies	☐ The Commissioner is he Deposit Account Number _	reby authorized	by charge the required fee(s), or credit any o(enclose an extra copy of this form).	verpayment, to
Commissioner for Patents is requested to apply the Issue Fee and Publi	cation Fee (if any) or to re-a	pply any previo	usly paid issue fee to the application identific	ed above.
(Authorized Signature) (Date)				
NOTE; The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assinterest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trade This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The in obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFI estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, prepa completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depend case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to consuggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief In Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-14	signee or other party in mark Office. formation is required to e USPTO to process) an R 1.14. This collection is tring, and submitting the ling upon the individual uplete this form and/or nformation Officer, U.S. et al. (1997).			

TRANSMIT THIS FORM WITH FEE(S)

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.



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United States Patent and Trademark Office

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Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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KATTEN MU- 575 MADISON	CHIN ZAVIS ROSEN	MAN	GOUDREAU, C	GEORGE A
NEW YORK, N			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1763	
		D	ATE MAILED: 08/12/2003	

Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The patent term adjustment to date is 58 days. If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the term adjustment will be 58 days.

If a continued prosecution application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines patent term adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. (http://pair.uspto.gov)

Any questions regarding the patent term extension or adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (703)305-1383.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE United States Patent and Trademark Office Address COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

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575 MADISON NEW YORK, N			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
UNITED STAT		_	1763	
		D	ATE MAILED: 08/12/2003	

Notice of Fee Increase on January 1, 2003

If a reply to a "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" is filed in the Office on or after January 1, 2003, then the amount due will be higher than that set forth in the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" since there will be an increase in fees effective on January 1, 2003. See Revision of Patent and Trademark Fees for Fiscal Year 2003; Final Rule, 67 Fed. Reg. 70847, 70849 (November 27, 2002).

The current fee schedule is accessible from: http://www.uspto.gov/main/howtofees.htm.

If the issue fee paid is the amount shown on the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due," but not the correct amount in view of the fee increase, a "Notice to Pay Balance of Issue Fee" will be mailed to applicant. In order to avoid processing delays associated with mailing of a "Notice to Pay Balance of Issue Fee," if the response to the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) due form is to be filed on or after January 1, 2003 (or mailed with a certificate of mailing on or after January 1, 2003), the issue fee paid should be the fee that is required at the time the fee is paid. If the issue fee was previously paid, and the response to the "Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due" includes a request to apply a previously-paid issue fee to the issue fee now due, then the difference between the issue fee amount at the time the response is filed and the previously paid issue fee should be paid. See Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, Section 1308.01 (Eighth Edition, August 2001).

Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at (703) 305-8283.

Application/Control Number: 09/751,979

Art Unit: 1763

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claims 9-10, replace the term "mToll" with the term "mtorr".

- 2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:
- -The prior art of record fails to either singularly or collectively disclose a process for forming a via hole in the type of structure which is claimed by the applicant.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Examiner George A. Goudreau whose telephone number is (703) -308-1915. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 9:30 to 6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Examiner Gregory Mills, can be reached on (703) -308-1633. The appropriate fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) -306-3186.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) -308-0661.

George A Goudreau/gag

Primary Examiner

AU 1763